

## AMERICA IN FRANCE

## VII—Châlons

When, on July 15, the armies of the German Crown Prince made their futile lunge in Champagne—"a blow in the void," as a great French military critic has called it—they sought to sweep down through Châlons and across the Marne through a broad stretch of country that, just 1507 years ago, was the camp of another great Hun who essayed to perform the same feat and met with more success.

The Hun of today did not get that far—not in 1918, though he did in 1014—but in its march to the front, at least one American unit, advancing to stop the Crown Prince in his tracks, crossed the very ground where the legions of Attila were bivouacked in the year 451 on the eve of a defeat which has come down in history as the Battle of Châlons.

Like many another battle which we have been fondly taught to believe occurred in the immediate vicinity of some town with whose name it has been labeled—like the Battle of Tours, for instance—the battle of Châlons was not fought near enough to Châlons for that town to suffer much as a result of the barrage of bombardments that Attila might have unleashed.

## Between Châlons and Troyes

It was fought between Châlons and Troyes, nearly 80 kilometers to the south as the Roman road runs to this day—and to say that it is exactly like saying as the crow flies. And it was fought rather nearer Troyes than Châlons.

The fact that Châlons gave its name to the field, however, is not so confusing as it might appear. The fight actually occurred on the Catalaunian plains, and it was from the Catalauni that Châlons got its name.

Attila suffered his defeat at the hands of Julius, "the last of the Romans," who commanded a mixed force of Romans, Burgundians, Visigoths and Franks. The blow was so severe that Attila seems at first to have despaired of getting further, for he had a pile of equipment heaped up which he intended to make his own funeral pyre in the event of his rout. Possibly this was only peace propaganda, for the holocaust did not come off, and as the victory spread discord among the victors more completely than their defeat could have done, "the scourge of God" suffered only a delay, albeit a serious one.

## Site of Two Great Camps

It is not, therefore, with the battle itself that America in France is much concerned. The great camp to the north of Châlons, however, has won its place in our history. It still bears vestiges of Attila's occupation, and the Yankee host may have noticed it if it was not in too great a hurry.

West of this lies the present great camp of Châlons, used by the French Government since 1857 as a field for military instruction and field maneuvers. Up to the end of the Empire, in 1871, French troops of all armies assembled there to the strength of an army corps and went through their evolutions. Every summer the Emperor himself came to look on.

Naturally the camp played an important part in the war of 1870. The army corps that broke out of the camp was commanded by Marshal Canrobert. It became the Sixth Corps of the Army of the Rhine, which it joined at Metz after the affairs of Wörth and Forbach. In August of that year, just 48 years ago, the mobile troops of the Seine were sent there for the battle of Châlons-sur-Marne. The First Corps came back to the camp of Châlons to reform, and there became the nucleus of the Army of Châlons. A few days later it left for Sedan and disaster.

In the years preceding the present war, only cavalry divisions and regiments and batteries of artillery have practised maneuvers at the camp of Châlons. The permanent camp sheltered various infantry and cavalry units and two Ecoles de Tir, or firing schools.

## The City of Châlons

The city of Châlons-sur-Marne itself deserves some notice as the center of this region, though its connection with America in France is not so direct as is that of other cities whose story has been narrated in this series.

Before 1771 it was a case of Marne-on-Châlons rather than Châlons-on-Marne, for the river used to flood the city regularly. In that year the course of the stream was rectified.

Châlons presents, to the American, the anomalous aspect of a town which, eight centuries ago, had nearly twice the population it has today. It was a bishopric as early as the third century, and in the fourth century was the third city of Belgic Gaul. The Germans captured it before the First Battle of the Marne in 1914, and left it in considerable haste shortly after, for it was the Champagne campaign, some 20 miles to the southwest, that General Foch delivered the stroke that ruptured the German line and flung it back on the Aisne.

It was Châlons, too, which was the great objective of the great Peace Offensive of July 15, 1918, for the German left, and the capture of which they believed to be such a sure matter that they had confidently drawn up a list of city officials to preside over its destinies during their occupation. At last reports, not even the dog-catcher had arrived at Châlons to assume his duties.

## BENEDICTS SCORE AGAIN

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES] AMERICA, Aug. 29.—The 1916 income tax returns, just in, show that married Americans have over five times the income wealth of the unmarried. Single men have double that of single women, except in New England, where the single men's incomes are only 15 per cent more than those of the spinsters.

The legal profession enjoys the largest incomes among the professions. New York, Pennsylvania and Illinois reported, in that order, the greatest total incomes. Net personal incomes reported showed a 48 per cent increase over the pre-war year of 1913. Corporate incomes showed an increase of more than 100 per cent.

## A REGULAR SURPRISE

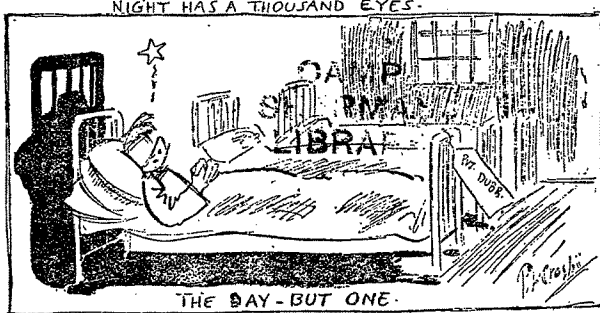
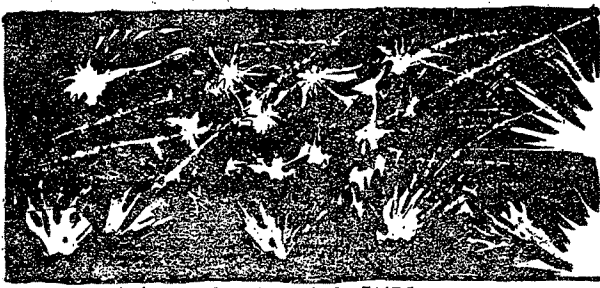
"I've got an idea," said the Guard House Strategist. "You know, the way they fight now, the Engineers go in and dig trenches, the Infantry comes up and occupies them, and then the Artillery backs up the Infantry. Now if you turned them around, with the Artillery first, the Infantry next and the Engineers last, just think what a surprise it would give the Germans!"

"What would the Engineers do?" asked Number Seven Post of the Third Relief.

And before the Guard House Strategist could answer, Number Three Post of the Second Relief butted in and spoiled it.

"Build insane asylums," he said.

## AS THE POET REMARKED—



## HERE AND THERE IN THE S.O.S.

He had been pretty badly banged up, up on the line, and had had a tough time pulling through. He wouldn't have pulled through at all if it hadn't been for the devoted efforts of a certain nurse in the base hospital. Finally he was out, and it was a happy and smiling boy who "sat attention" in bed as his captain came in to see him and congratulate him.

As they were talking, in came the nurse, with his hourly ration of medicine. He looked up and grinned. "Thanks, Blank," he said. "This is my captain, Blank. This is Miss Blank. She's an awful mean girl—she cheated my poor family out of \$10,000 life insurance."

The heartfelt and oft expressed desire of many of the enlisted men in the Air Service that they be allowed to qualify as pilots has met with a response.

A precedent was established recently when a group of enlisted men, mostly non-coms who filed applications to become flyers several months ago, were ordered to report for training. They will go through the same course as the cadets who have been trained in the A.E.F. and, after qualifying as pilots, will get commissions.

Mark another score for the humble Ford. At the aviation centers now they save time and trouble with a diminutive automobile, hooked to the rear end of the fuselage, towed airplanes from hangars to the field or wherever they are going.

These are hard rubber tires and a single spring seat like those used on farmers' hay racks. It is short and narrow, but unmistakably a Ford. At the same time we can record the threshing machine engine as among those present in the A.E.F. "Thrashing machine engines, belted to the main shafts, are proving ideal power plants for small machine shops. They provide the maximum of mobility, being able to move under their own power at a moment's notice.

A gang of *les soldats noirs américains* stood watching one of the musicians, Chinaman one, Sunday, as he made his rounds like the gent who sings "A Wandering Minstrel I" in "The Mikado," and the mirthful show of ivory teeth they put on was a sight indeed. "Lowd Gawd!" one of them exclaimed.

## HUN OFFICERS' HOME NOW DOUGHBOY CLUB

Yanks Move Into Chateau-Thierry Biltmore, Full of German Loot

Doughboys. Artillerymen and other wearers of uniforms furnished by Uncle Sam have an exclusive club of their own now at Chateau-Thierry. Marble topped tables, a billiard room and a grand piano are among the furnishings. It may be mentioned before going any further that the doughboys didn't pay for this furniture out of their pay. The furniture is a la Hotel Biltmore was left behind by the Germans.

The old Café du Nord, a three-story building, or to be more exact, the remains of a three-story building, is the new club. The Knights of Columbus, while hunting through the ruins of the town for a likely club site, discovered the place and the furnishings in it. A conference was held with the mayor of the town and he not only turned the place over to the K. of C. but also refused to accept any rental for it.

While the Germans were occupying Chateau-Thierry their officers evidently thought it was a good place to establish themselves in comfort, so they gathered the best furniture they could find in other sections of the town, and installed it there. A shell dropped in through the roof and spoiled the interior before Fritz decamped, but the K. of C. men, with the aid of the soldiers, have renovated the building now, and the "Everybody Welcome: Everything Given Away" sign is on display outside.

## RELIEVING THE TENSION

Some time ago a regiment of colored stevedores was en route overseas on a transport. A large number of them were cornfield and cotton workers accustomed to the water. Of course, there had been much talk of submarines.

On the sixth day out, one of the cannons of the transport suddenly boomed, and call to quarters was sounded, soon followed by "Abandon ship" call. There were several more shots, and the feeling was intense. It was not known whether the submarine would fire a torpedo or not. After a series of shots, with the tension at its highest pitch, there was a sudden dead quiet. All faces were peering over the rail for the unknown peril suddenly from the rear rank was heard "Is dere any nigger present what want to buy a gold watch and chain?"

The tension was immediately relieved.

## ARMY SURVEY GOES, AFFIDAVIT ADOPTED

Officer's Sworn Word Will Be Accepted in Loss of Property

No more surveying officers. The old bogey of the survey, feared and shunned by all in the Army in time of peace, is, like many other things, suspended during "the present emergency." In all cases where Government property in the keeping of the A.E.F. has been lost, damaged or destroyed, in its stead, the following procedure is substituted, by the terms of a new G.O. 133:

"The responsible officer shall furnish the accountable officer with his affidavit or his certificate supported by one or more affidavits which shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Chief of the Supply Department concerned . . . that the loss . . . occurred through no fault or neglect upon the part of the responsible officer.

"When the loss . . . has occurred to property belonging to troops which have not yet rendered final returns, and the value . . . is in excess of \$500, the approval of the commanding officer of the unit to which the property belongs should be shown upon the affidavit or certificate of the responsible officer. The accountable officer shall submit the original papers in each case as vouchers to his property return."

But when field conditions prevent the gathering of evidence in this way; where there is doubt as to just who is the responsible officer; or—and this is where you come in—upon the request of an enlisted man who is to be charged with the value of the lost property, the action of a surveying officer will be requested, as formerly.

The order does not retroact so as to cover cases of loss occurring to organizations' property before those organizations were ordered to leave the States.

## AFTER THE BATTLE

The doughboy swung back from the fight. The hard fought battle won; And in his eyes a shining light Out-gleamed the noon day sun; Did he then boast about the fray And tell each "why" and "how?" The only thing he heard him say Was, "Where the hell's the chow?"

## TIFFANY &amp; Co

23, Rue de la Paix and Place de l'Opéra

## PARIS

LONDON, 221, Regent Street, W.

NEW YORK, Fifth Avenue and 37th Street

**Pyrene**  
FIRE-ENGINEERS  
1 Rue Taubout, PARIS  
15 Rue Néricault-Destouches, TOURS

## PHILLIPS &amp; PAIN

1 Rue Taubout, PARIS  
15 Rue Néricault-Destouches, TOURS

## Standard-Bearers

of America!

You have come to the Home of

**Perrier**  
The Champagne of Table Waters.

Delicious with lemon, sirops, etc., and a perfect combination with the light wines of France.

DRINK IT TO-DAY

PARIS, 36bis Boulevard-Hausmann

## MUSICIANS

Musicians having had experience on clarinet, oboe, bassoon, flute and piccolo, or saxophone, desiring transfer to one of the best artillery bands in the A.E.F., communicate with Artillery Band Leader, The Stars and Stripes, 1 Rue des Italiens, Paris.

## GUILLON

TELEPHONE: CENTRAL 93-33

HARICOTS, SARDINES, BEANS, &c.

VIBRO-ELECTRIC

FACE MASSAGE

AMERICAN BARBER CHAIRS

5, Boulevard des Capucines, 5 (OPERA)

Another "STAR" Among Stars

**THE "J.B." WRIST-WATCH**

Luminous dial and hands. Visible at night. Precise movement. 10 rubies. Guaranteed 15 years. In metal. Price \$29.95 with unbreakable glass.

The "Star" chronometer silver plated metal, unbreakable, exact time keeper, 10 rubies guaranteed 20 years.

When ordering, please money 5 off plus 50 percent. Justifying the name "J.B." watch.

Price 32 fr.

STRONG - ELEGANT - PRECISE

JEAN BENOIT FILS ET C<sup>ie</sup> Manufacture Principale d'Horlogerie BESANCON (DOUBS)

Established 1791

Direct Sale at Wholesale Prices.

## PICCADILLY CIRCUS

## A Tale We Can't Repeat!

Quite recently an American Warrior came to the Advertising Department of the JUNIOR Army & Navy Stores with a Serious complaint—the American Edition of our Equipment Booklet differed from the facts as he found them



New York Harbour to Piccadilly

HAVE you noticed strange Khaki in this London of ours? Fine men all of them, but distinguished from our previous visitors by the brown slung cap peaks, and their leggings. They are, as you perhaps know, the advance guard of a mighty host hammering and drilling itself into efficiency that the War for Freedom may be the quicker won.

WHAT do our American comrades really think of London now they are here? Are they preoccupied ideas knocked flat? Do they find gaiety and frivolity where they expected profound emotion; do they find neglect instead of the cheering crowds which should be there—but such is the English way. After deep study their own famous writer WILLIAM HARRIS says: "There should be no plays in London—nothing but reviews—the whole food of English language should flow." For so we ride our troubles.

THESE Americans, Allice, soon to fill our streets, are born to sentiment just as we. They possess the most famous statue in the world. A statue erected to an Emblem, the tokens of which form the foundations of the American constitution. This STATUE OF LIBERTY in New York Harbour is recognized by all even though we have never seen it.

WHAT A SIGNPOST TO A NATION! What a signpost to a people anxious to help without respect to party, creed, or nationality! Has not its welcome freedom to millions of the oppressed? Does it not always maintain its head high as it enters through the gate it guards?

SO in a less degree does the little god Eros, hovering on the fountain in Piccadilly Circus, indicate the route to the JUNIOR ARMY & NAVY STORES.

For EROS & our SIGN-POST, his arrow is aimed dead to 15, Regent Street, London, S.W.1.

Like America, THE JUNIOR ARMY AND NAVY STORES "OPEN TO ALL." (We were the first Service Stores to abolish the Ticket System.) By heading the Signpost you will find freedom from Shopping Worries, and enormous facilities which mean better living.

All of which is of vital interest to you, but only becomes useful when you begin the Shopping. It points the way to the road for War-time Economy as you may see by seeing the price quoted every day on Wednesday on the back page of The Evening News in the top left hand corner.

Today we would have you to shop at the Junior Army and Navy Stores in person, or by some for whatever you require. You will find us courteous, fair, and worthy of your trust.

Whenever you see it, remember the direction of the arrow and the flight will take you to the

**JUNIOR ARMY & NAVY STORES**  
(The First Service Stores WITHOUT TICKETS)

One of our "Signposts" Ads. July, 1917

Now Piccadilly Circus is the center of the British Empire, beloved by Britishers as you regard New York Harbour, talked of, longed for, and typified by a statue "quite like home" to you. We have told the story of this statue in our American Booklet, how that it surmounted the Shaftesbury Memorial Fountain and represented EROS, the god of love, as having shot an arrow from his bow. And further, how that the flight of the arrow was straight to the Stores, thus making a wonderful Signpost.

It was quite a good "stunt" don't you think? Every American who came to London would find himself in Piccadilly Circus and there was the continual pointer to 15 Regent Street on the South side.

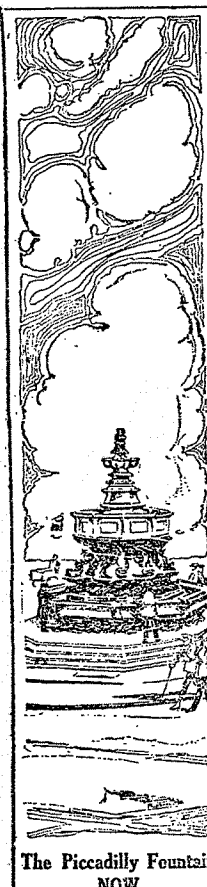
Unfortunately it doesn't quite work out, for the valuable statue has been removed "for the duration." Sculptured by Gilbert in aluminium (the only statue in the world of this metal) it is absolutely irreplaceable, so the Powers-That-Be have placed it in safety against any aerial attack that might reach the hub of London.

Now the basis of successful advertising is honesty, better a poor advertisement based on facts than a stroke of genius that will not bear investigation, and so we have been compelled to withdraw a talking point we favoured greatly.

To tell you this is costing money, but it isn't wasted money, for as the American Warrior (an Advertising Man himself in Civil Life) informed us—You boys are over here in strange conditions—and strangeness begets suspicion, without intention. We at the JUNIOR Army & Navy Stores are known to British Soldiers as a firm to be relied upon for "every soldier's every need"—we understand the soldier—we have studied American needs right in U.S.A. and invite its citizens to look to us for their requirements.



The Piccadilly Fountain THEN



The Piccadilly Fountain NOW

WRITE FOR our SPECIAL BOOKLET

**JUNIOR ARMY & NAVY STORES**  
The First Service Stores WITHOUT TICKETS

15 REGENT STREET, LONDON, S.W.1

in Piccadilly Circus—the Center of London

and 17 & 19 UNION ST., ALDERSHOT, etc.